REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 and 6-9 are pending. Claims 1-4 and 6-9 have been rejected. No claims were merely objected to and no claims were allowed. By entry of this amendment, claim 8 is cancelled, claims 1 and 10 are amended, and no new claims are added. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 10 may at least be found in the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed. No new matter is being presented.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 7, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of U.S.P.N. 3,570,343 to Wolnosky ("Wolnosky") in view of U.S.P.N. 4,905,556 to Haack et al. ("Haack").

Applicants' amended independent claim 1 now recites the following:

> "1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for fine blanking of workpieces from a material (1), comprising:
>
> a press plate (10) having a V-ring (11), which is under pressure from a V-ring cylinder (13) comprising a V-ring piston rod (15) connected to a V-ring piston (12) disposed opposite to and in support of the V-ring (11) of the press plate (10), and
>
> a blanking punch (9) which is guided in the press plate (10) and to which a die plate (17) with counterholder (16) is assigned at a ram (7), wherein the ram (7) is supported against at least one compensation cylinder (22) and against at least one main cylinder (19.1, 19.2), and wherein the at least one compensation cylinder (22) is hydraulically connected to the V-ring cylinder (13) through a hydraulic connection (25) and is in hydraulic equilibrium with the V-ring cylinder (13), said hydraulic connection (25) also having a connection (26) to an oil tank via a logic valve (27)."

Applicants' amended independent claim 10 now recites the following:

10. An apparatus for fine blanking of workpieces from a material, comprising:

a press plate having a V-ring;

a blanking punch guided in said press plate;

a ram comprising a die plate opposed to said press plate and a counterholder opposed to said blanking punch;

a V-ring cylinder connected to said press plate; at least one compensation cylinder connected to said ram, wherein said V-ring cylinder is in hydraulic equilibrium with said compensation cylinder, and the at least one compensation cylinder is hydraulically connected to the V-ring cylinder through a hydraulic connection, said hydraulic connection also having a connection to an oil tank via a logic valve; and

a main cylinder connected to said ram.

Applicants amended claims 1 and 10 recite in part the following, "at least one compensation cylinder is hydraulically connected to the V-ring cylinder through a hydraulic connection, the hydraulic connection also having a connection to an oil tank via a logic valve". Neither Wolnosky nor Haack individually or combined teach the compensation cylinder identified by the examiner is connected to the V-ring cylinder by a hydraulic connection that is also connected to an oil tank via a logic valve. Wolnosky teaches and suggests using two separate logic valves and tanks as illustrated in the Figure and taught at col. 2, l. 8-col. 3, l. 58. Likewise, Haack teaches and suggests using two separate logic valves to deliver pressurized oil to the hydraulic units as illustrated in Figure 3 and taught at col. 2, l. 61-col. 3, l. 6. Haack further teaches the benefits and advantages in using this hydraulic power set-up based upon the graph of Figure 9 contained therein. Figure 9 illustrates the plotted curves representing the harmonized movements of the ram and transfer press and of the individual pistons, and further teaches the advantageous pressing and cutting forces are achieved based upon these harmonized movements.

Applicants contend one of ordinary skill in the art would not combine the references and consolidate parts to eliminate a logic valve as neither Wolnosky nor Haack provide the requisite motivation to do so. The only teaching or suggestion to utilize a hydraulic connection with a single logic valve and an oil tank is Applicants' claims. No other source provides such teachings other than Applicants' claims. In addition to, or in the alternative, if one of ordinary skill in the art were to combine Wolnosky in view of Haack and utilize only a single logic valve, the proposed blanking punch would be rendered inoperable as there is insufficient disclosure to teach connecting hydraulically the opposed die members using only a single tank and a single logic valve. Moreover, Applicants contend Haack does not teach or suggest eliminating a logic valve and consolidating the hydraulics as Haack teaches the advantages achieved, that is, the harmonized movements of the ram and individual pistons, using the hydraulics taught therein. As a result, the proposed blanking punch cannot operate properly as one of ordinary skill in the art does not have enough information, without the benefit of Applicants' claims, to assemble the blanking punch recited in Applicants' amended claims 1 and 10.

For at least these reasons, Applicants contend amended claims 1 and 10 are patentable over the combined teachings of Wolnosky taken in view of Haack.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and find that claims 1-3, 7, 8 and 10 are allowable.

The Examiner also rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of U.S.P.N. 3,570,343 to Wolnosky ("Wolnosky") in view of U.S.P.N. 4,905,556 to Haack et al. ("Haack") as applied to claims 1 and 3 above, and further in view of U.S.P.N. 6,240,818 to Baltschun ("Baltschun").

Applicants' dependent claim 4 depends from amended independent claim 1.

Applicants reiterate their contention that neither Wolnosky nor Haack teach or suggest all of the elements of Applicants' independent claim 1 for the reasons stated above.

Applicants contend Baltschun does not cure the deficiencies present in either Wolnosky or Haack. The Examiner relies upon Baltschun to teach the importance of equal piston areas of opposed cylinders in a blanking device in order to achieve an equilibrium state (Final Office action mailed on April 3, 2007, page 4, last paragraph). However, Baltschun does not teach, suggest or provide the requisite motivation to adapt its disclosure and teach the following, "at least one compensation cylinder is hydraulically connected to the V-ring cylinder through a hydraulic connection, the hydraulic connection also having a connection to an oil tank via a logic valve". Baltschun cannot be relied upon to cure deficiencies present in the combination of Wolnosky in view of Haack. Furthermore, the combination of Wolnosky in view of Haack and further in view of Baltschun fails to teach, suggest or provide the requisite motivation to adapt their combined teachings to achieve all of the claim elements recited in Applicants' amended independent claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicants contend amended independent claim 1 is patentable over the combined teachings of

Wolnosky taken in view of Haack and further in view of Baltschun.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and find that claim 4 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any additional fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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